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Publication Title:

Apparatus and method for providing products and services in a transport vehicle using a network of computers

Abstract:

Abstract of GB2363497

Computer network system for providing, and managing delivery of, products and services to persons on a transport vehicle. An exemplary network (10) includes: computers (11a through 11c), such as laptop computers, used by persons on the vehicle (15) to request and receive services; a member computer (12) used by the operator crew to request and receive services; member handheld computers (13a through 13b) used by cabin attendants to manage delivery of products and services; a computer server onboard the vehicle for storing data, performing calculations, and acting as a communications gateway to other members in the network; a communications link (16) to a ground fixed router (17); a ground router (17) for access to the Internet and other members of the network; a computer server for managing product inventory and product delivery (18); a computer for recording inventory (19), and computer kiosks (20a and 20b) at departure and arrival ports for passenger ordering. The network of computers provides more precise control over product and service ordering, inventory management, and the delivery of the product and services. The network supports a preferred transaction method using credit cards and debit "phone cards" allowing cash-less delivery of products and services.

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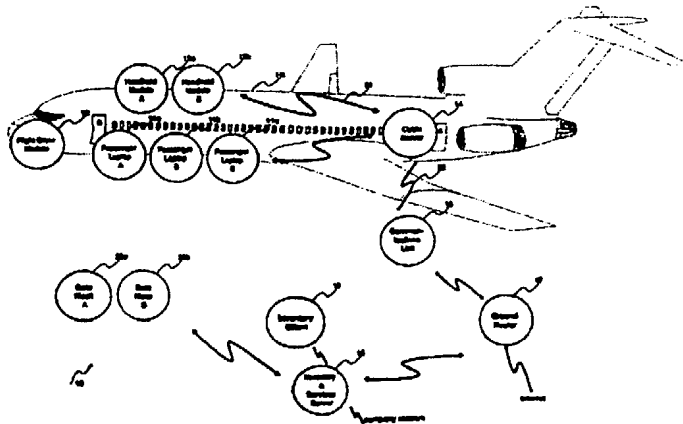
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(54) Abstract Title

Apparatus and method for providing products and services in a transport vehicle using a network of computers

(57) Computer network system for providing, and managing delivery of, products and services to persons on a transport vehicle. An exemplary network (10) includes: computers (11a through 11c), such as laptop computers, used by persons on the vehicle (15) to request and receive services; a member computer (12) used by the operator crew to request and receive services; member handheld computers (13a through 13b) used by cabin attendants to manage delivery of products and services; a computer server onboard the vehicle for storing data, performing calculations, and acting as a communications gateway to other members in the network; a communications link (16) to a ground fixed router (17); a ground router (17) for access to the Internet and other members of the network; a computer server for managing product inventory and product delivery (18); a computer for recording inventory (19), and computer kiosks (20a and 20b) at departure and arrival ports for passenger ordering. The network of computers provides more precise control over product and service ordering, inventory management, and the delivery of the product and services. The network supports a preferred transaction method using credit cards and debit "phone cards" allowing cash-less delivery of products and services.



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